

Waste Matters

Placer County Environmental Engineering & Utilities

Summer 2009

Director's Note

Jim Durfee, Placer County Facility Services Director

We all depend on our sewer systems working properly and our garbage being collected every week. One of our top priorities at the Placer County **Department of Facility Services is to** provide these services in an efficient, reliable, and most importantly, cost effective manner – especially during these difficult economic times. As an example of our efforts to reduce costs, our employees recently agreed to 12 mandatory furlough days, thereby reducing their annual paychecks by five percent. These savings will partially offset the significant cost increases we are experiencing due to more stringent State and Federal regulatory standards.

I would like to briefly introduce the two teams that manage solid waste and sewer issues for the Department: Environmental Engineering and Utilities.

The Environmental Engineering Division is the engineering arm for the five wastewater treatment systems, 275 miles of pipe and 42 pump stations that make up the sewer collection systems managed by the County. Staff for this Division:

- **■** Evaluate the systems regularly.
- Ensure the County is in compliance with state operating permits.
- Manage solid waste and recycling programs.
- Provide public education and outreach

The Utilities Division is the hands-on crew that operates and maintains our wastewater collection and treatment systems, providing service to over 12,600 customers throughout the County. More than 3.5 million gallons of wastewater flow through these systems daily.

I encourage you to continue reading this customer newsletter for information about the services we provide and our current and upcoming projects. For more information, visit us online at www.placer.ca.gov/sewer, call (530) 889-6846 or email sewer@placer.ca.gov.

Ready For Your Review | Sewer System Management Plans

What happens when sewer systems aren't properly maintained? Overflows and

sewer overflow

backups, such as those pictured at the right, can occur and cause health and environmental hazards, damage home interiors, and require expensive and time consuming cleanup. To reduce the potential for overflows the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) now requires public agencies that own or operate sanitary sewer systems to develop and implement Sewer System Management Plans (SSMPs). The SWRCB also requires agencies to report all overflows to the SWRCB online database, which provides

the public access to information.

broken sewer pipe

Environmental Engineering has developed a SSMP for each sewer system that we operate. Each SSMP includes a plan to minimize sewage spills, and includes measures to effectively clean-up and report sewage spills should they occur.

We invite the public to get involved with the SSMP development process. Draft SSMPs are available for public review

and comment until June 30th at:

- Placer County Community Development Resource Agency, 3091 County Center Drive Auburn (County Center Drive is off of Bell Road between First Avenue and Richardson Drive in Auburn).
- County libraries for the library where your SSMP is located please contact us at (530) 889-6846 or visit www.placer.ca.gov/sewer.
- Online at www.placer.ca.gov/sewer.

Please submit comments by June 30th in writing to Placer County Environmental Engineering at 11476 C Avenue, Auburn, CA 95603 or email them to **sewer@placer.ca.gov**. The Placer County Board of Supervisors will hold a Public Hearing to adopt the SSMPs later this summer. For more information please call (530) 889-6846 or visit **www.placer.ca.gov/sewer**.

"Out of Sight" | Sewer System Technologies

Cracked and broken sewer pipes let groundwater seep into our collection systems, increasing our operating costs. Repairing broken pipes is imperative, but formerly required large-scale digging activities that often involved road or lane closures. We now use "trenchless technology" methods to repair sewer collection pipes. These methods are implemented "out of sight," meaning they use existing manholes rather than disruptive digging to access pipes. This minimizes above-ground impacts, such as damaging street surfaces and interference with pedestrian and vehicle traffic. Trenchless repairs can also be completed faster and cheaper than digging.

"Out of Sight" **Technologies** continued



We primarily use the Cure In Place Pipes trenchless technology which uses air to push a felt liner infused with resin through the damaged pipe. Once the liner is extended and inflated, it is solidified in place using steam or hot water, thereby repairing the broken or cracked pipe. These repairs are important as they help to minimize the amount of wastewater we treat, which saves money by reducing operating costs.



Solid Waste & Recycling

Over the last three years, the County has repaired 17,050 linear feet of sewer collection pipes using trenchless methods, effectively extending the lifespan of the pipes by 25-50 years. Learn about other Environmental Engineering projects at www.placer.ca.gov/sewer.



Environmental Engineering & Utilities | At Work

Applegate Regional Sewer Pipeline Project

- Purpose: Decommission treatment ponds and install pump station and pipeline to SMD 1 system.
- We obtained \$2.2 million in grant funds for this \$5.2 million project.

Auburn Ravine Lift Station Upgrade

- Purpose: Replace old pumps and controls and improve capacity.
- We obtained \$2 million in grant funds for this \$3.1 million project.

Dry Creek Isolation Valves Installation

■ Purpose: Increase the number of isolation valves to increase efficiency of system maintenance and minimize the potential for sewage spills.

Sewer Maintenance District 2 (Granite Bay Area) Trenchless Pipe Repairs

■ Purpose: Use pipe lining technologies (see article in this issue) to repair 2,000 linear feet of pipeline.

Sewer Maintenance District 3 (Horseshoe Bar Road Area) Denitrification Treatment Process

■ Purpose: Install denitrifying filter to comply with new State permit requirements.

Sheridan Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade and Expansion

- Purpose: Increase the capacity of the wastewater treatment plant by expanding the sprayfield operation, and increase system automation to minimize operational costs.
- We obtained \$2 million in grant funds for this \$2.4 million project

■ Sewer System Technologies

■ Sewer System Management Plans

■ Director's Note

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